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Teaching Assistants: Josh May

Course description: This course is an introduction to several fundamental topics in contemporary analytic metaphysics, including universals and particulars, necessity and possibility, the nature of time, change and persistence, and personal identity.

Required text: Michael J. Loux (ed.), *Metaphysics: Contemporary Readings* (Routledge, 2001).

Recommended prerequisite: Eight units in philosophy (including Phil 3).

Course requirements: There will be in-class mid-term and final exams, and a paper of at least 1500 words, on a topic to be assigned by the instructor. The midterm will be on the third Thursday of the session. The paper will be assigned right after the midterm and will be due in the fifth week of the session. The paper and mid-term will each be worth 30% of the final grade, and the final will be worth 40% of the final grade. The final exam will be on the last day of class (Thursday). All work for the course must be completed in order to receive a passing grade. No alternative arrangements for taking exams will be made except in documented cases of illness, work, or multiple exams on the same day.

Academic honesty: When a student submits a paper for a course, he or she represents that it is their own work. Copying of passages from other sources, including material on the web, is plagiarism and will be met with by measures including but not limited to failure of the assignment in question and referral to the Office of the Dean of Students for further disciplinary action. Similar remarks apply to other forms of academic dishonesty, such as cheating on in-class examinations.

Class behavior: Dozing and ostentatious yawning in class are rude behaviors. If you must arrive late or leave early, please enter quietly and inconspicuously. Do not stroll across the front of the classroom to take a seat on the far side. Leaving in the middle of class to get a drink or use the restroom is disruptive and frowned upon by your instructor. Please tend to your bladder needs before class begins.

In summer session everything happens very quickly. You must learn a great deal of material in a very short span of time. Do not miss class or you will fall irretrievably behind.

Topics and Readings

I. *Universals*

1. Loux, "The Problem of Universals"
2. Bertrand Russell, "The World of Universals"
3. H. H. Price, "Universals and Resemblances"
4. W. V. Quine, "On What There Is"

II. *Particulars*

1. Loux, "The Ontological Structure of Concrete Particulars".
2. Max Black, "The Identity of Indiscernibles"

III. *Necessity, Possibility, and Contingency*

1. Loux, "Modality and Possible Worlds"
2. David Lewis, "Possible Worlds"
3. Saul Kripke, "Identity and Necessity"

IV. *Time*

1. Loux, "Time: The A-Theory and the B-Theory"
2. J. M. E. McTaggart, "Time"
3. A. N. Prior, "The Notion of the Present"
4. J. J. C. Smart, "The Space-Time World"

V. *Persistence Through Time*

1. Loux, "Endurantism and Perdurantism"
2. David Lewis, "Counterparts or Double Lives?" (excerpt)
3. Trenton Merricks, "Endurance and Indiscernibility" (excerpt)
4. Derek Parfit, "Personal Identity"